AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3A. This sheet, which includes Figs. 3A-3C, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3A-3C. In Fig. 3A, the section line B-B has been changed to I-I, and the section line C-C has been changed to II-II.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks, wherein claims 3-4, 7 and 16-17 have been amended. Currently, claims 2-11 and 13-17 are pending in the application.

As an initial matter, the drawings remain objected to because the Examiner maintains that section lines "B-B" and "C-C" should be changed to either Roman or Arabic numerals. As a result, Applicants have amended the drawings to replace the sections lines "B-B" and "C-C" to --I-I-- and --II-II-- in Figure 3A. Replacement sheets have also been provided. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification to be consistent with this change. According, withdrawal of the drawing objections is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action indicates that Claim 16 stands objected to for containing informalities. As a result, Claim 16 has been amended to remove the noted informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0074797 to *Liljebrand et al.* Claims 7-11, 13-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Liljebrand et al.* or in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over *Liljebrand et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 767,157 to *Larsson.*

Claim 16 defines a male element for percussive rock drilling. The male element includes a front end portion on which an external thread for percussive rock drilling is provided. The thread includes a full profile region of constant first cross-sectional area disposed adjacent a front end of the thread. A length of the male element is defined as a length from a plane of the abutment surface of an imaginary cylinder to a point where the

thread ceases to be at full profile when a portion of the length L divided by the diameter of the imaginary cylinder lies within the range of 1-2.

Claim 16 also defines that the thread includes a last turn whose cross-sectional area gradually increases to be greater than the first cross-sectional area of the full profile region to define a thread exit. *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose these patentable features.

In contrast, the male element in *Liljebrand et al.* includes a screw thread structure including a small diameter thread and a large diameter thread which are interconnected to one another by a transition thread. According to the Examiner's interpretation, the thread includes a last turn 15B, 22. However, the threaded portion 15B is of constant cross-sectional area, as opposed to the claimed feature of "said thread including a last turn whose cross-sectional area gradually increases to be greater than said first cross-sectional area of said full profile region to define a thread exit." According, *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 16.

Similarly, independent Claim 17 also recites a male thread including a last turn whose cross-sectional area gradually increases to be greater than said first cross-sectional area of said full profile region to define a thread exit. As discussed above, *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose a last turn that has a cross-sectional area that gradually increases to be greater than said first cross-sectional area of said full profile region. In contrast, *Liljebrand et al.* discloses a last turn 15B that has a constant cross-sectional area. Accordingly, *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 17.

In addition, *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 7. Applicants maintain that the dimensions for the thread 16A recited in paragraph 18 do not take into account the non-threaded cylindrical portion 29 located in the recess between the abutment surface 30 and the inner thread 16A. Since the presently claimed "length" is

measured from the abutment surface, it will be necessary to add in the length of the cylindrical portion when determining the corresponding "length" in *Liljebrand et al.* However, no dimensions for the cylindrical portion are provided, so the recited dimensions are of little use. Accordingly, *Liljebrand et al.* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 7.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the independent Claims 7, 16 and 17, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she should be contacted at the number indicated below.

It is believed that no fees are due with this submission. However, should this be incorrect, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 6, 2006 By: Elaine P. Spector

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